IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of each claim that has been introduced in the above-referenced application is identified in the ensuing listing of the claims. This listing of the claims replaces all previously submitted claims listings.

1. (Currently amended) A breath collection system for use in obtaining metabolic measurements from an individual's respiration, comprising:

a breathing apparatus configured to communicate with ~~at least a mouth~~an airway of the individual and comprising at least one of a mouthpiece and a mask; and

a conduit including a first end coupled to ~~a mouthpiece~~the breathing apparatus and a second end configured to be coupled to an apparatus for monitoring the individual's respiration, the conduit including at least a section that is configured to be formed to a desired shape and that substantially maintains the desired shape until formed to another desired shape.

2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the breathing apparatus comprises a mouthpiece.

3. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the mouthpiece comprises a breathing end configured to be at least partially inserted into the mouth of the individual.

4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the mouthpiece comprises a conduit coupling section oriented in an at least partially downwardly extending direction relative to the breathing end, the conduit coupling section being configured to be coupled to the first end of the conduit.

5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the breathing apparatus comprises a mask configured to be placed over at least the mouth of the individual.

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the breathing apparatus comprises:
at least one inlet valve; and
at least one outlet valve.

7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the at least one inlet valve comprises a one-way valve that facilitates introduction of gases to be inhaled by the individual into the breathing apparatus.

8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the at least one inlet valve opens upon application of a negative pressure within the breathing apparatus.

9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the at least one outlet valve comprises a one-way valve that facilitates evacuation of the individual's expiratory gases from the breathing apparatus.

10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the at least one outlet valve opens upon application of a positive pressure within the breathing apparatus.

11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the at least one outlet valve is positioned on at least one of a conduit coupling section of the breathing apparatus and an end of the conduit.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least the section of the conduit comprises a longitudinally expandable and collapsible member.

13. (Previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the longitudinally expandable and collapsible member comprises a section of corrugated tubing.

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least the section of the conduit carries at least one elongate compliant member.

15. (Currently amended) A breathing conduit, comprising:

a first end configured to be coupled to a breathing apparatus that is capable of communicating with ~~at least a mouth~~ an airway of an individual;

a second end configured to be coupled to ~~apparatus~~ a sensor for monitoring the individual's respiration; and

at least a section located between the first end and the second end and which is configured to be formed to a desired shape and that substantially maintains the desired shape until formed to another desired shape.

16. (Previously presented) The breathing conduit of claim 15, wherein at least the section is at least partially longitudinally collapsible and at least partially longitudinally expandable.

17. (Previously presented) The breathing conduit of claim 16, wherein at least the section comprises corrugated tubing.

18. (Previously presented) The breathing conduit of claim 15, wherein at least the section carries at least one elongate compliant member that is configured to be bent to shape at least the section into the desired shape and maintain the desired shape.

19. (Currently amended) A method for obtaining a resting metabolic rate of an individual, comprising:

placing the individual in a resting position;

~~coupling~~ placing a breathing apparatus ~~and conduit in communication therewith in~~ flow communication ~~between~~ with an airway of the individual;

coupling a conduit to the breathing apparatus and to a sensor ~~and an apparatus~~ for monitoring the individual's respiration; and

forming at least a portion of the conduit to a desired shape, the conduit being configured so as to substantially maintain the desired shape.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~coupling comprises~~: ~~coupling~~ placing the breathing apparatus comprises placing the breathing apparatus in substantially fluid-tight connection to at least a mouth of the individual; and

coupling comprises coupling the conduit in substantially fluid-tight communication to the apparatus.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein forming comprises at least one of at least partially longitudinally collapsing locations of at least the portion and at least partially longitudinally expanding locations of at least the portion.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein forming comprises bending at least one elongate compliant member carried upon a wall of at least the portion.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein, upon forming, the conduit at least partially supports the breathing apparatus.

24. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising substantially restricting respiration through a nose of the individual.